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# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

BLUE STAR CLOTHING CO., INC.,

Plaintiff,

Case No.

V.

DOUBLE DRAGON INTERNATIONAL, INC. d/b/a "DDI, INC." and "BACKYARD EXPRESSIONS",

Defendant.

### FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Blue Star Clothing Co., Inc. ("Plaintiff" or "Blue Star"), states the following for its complaint against Defendant Double Dragon International, Inc. d/b/a "DDI, Inc." and "Backyard Expressions" ("Defendant").

#### SUBSTANCE OF THE ACTION

1. Defendant has, without authorization, used images of Plaintiff's hammocks and point of sale materials to lure customers into purchasing Defendant's competing and different hammocks, depriving Plaintiff of sales to which it would otherwise be entitled

and misleading actual and potential purchasers as to the products Defendant is offering for sale.

2. This is an action for unfair competition and false advertising arising under Section 43 of the Federal Trademark Act of 1946 (the "Lanham Act"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 1051 *et seq.* and unfair competition arising under the common law of the State of New York, all arising out of Defendant's use of images of Plaintiff's hammocks, shown immediately below, in Defendant's sales materials in order to sell Defendant's hammocks.



Item #: 912352-Single / 912353-Double Description: Single Person Hammock in a Bag

UPC#: 681129123520

Product Size: 78"x32" 40' FL Qty: 9000 / 4404

Cube: 0.2 Weight (lbs.): 1.8

Case Qty: 24 Port: Ningbo

## Plaintiff's Image and Products Shown in Defendant's Sales Materials

3. Plaintiff therefore seeks permanent injunctive relief; an accounting and award of Defendant's profits; compensatory damages including Plaintiff's lost profits; an award of costs and attorneys' fees; and such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

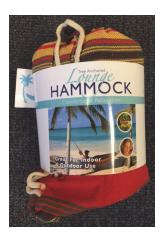
#### PARTIES, JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 4. Plaintiff Blue Star Clothing Co., Inc., is a New York corporation with a principal place of business at 1370 Broadway, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York, 10018.
- 5. On information and belief, Defendant Double Dragon International, Inc. is an Iowa corporation with a principal place of business at 7425 Chavenelle Road, Suite #100, Dubuque, Iowa. On information and belief, Double Dragon International, Inc., conducts business under the names "DDI, Inc." and "Backyard Expressions", among others.
- 6. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiff's Lanham Act claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, and section 39 of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1121. This Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiff's related state and common law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- 7. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant does business in New York and within this judicial district. On information and belief, Defendant has imported, distributed, offered for sale, sold, or shipped merchandise to persons within this State and this District and has otherwise made or established contacts within this State sufficient to permit the exercise of personal jurisdiction over Defendant.
- 8. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) because Defendant does business in this District and a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred in this District.

9. This Court has jurisdiction to enter injunctive relief, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1116 and Fed. R. Civ. P. 65.

## FACTS AND DEFENDANT'S UNLAWFUL CONDUCT

- 10. Plaintiff designs and produces, among other things, home and travel goods that are sold through retailers throughout the United States.
- 11. Among Plaintiff's products are fabric hammocks sold in cylindrical fabric bags, as shown below.



12. Defendant also offers for sale and has sold similar fabric hammocks that are also sold in cylindrical fabric bags, as shown below.



- 13. Rather than using photographs of its own products in its sales materials, Defendant has used and continues to use images of Plaintiff's hammocks, in interstate commerce, in its catalogs to sell Defendant's hammocks. True and correct copies of Defendant's catalog pages showing images of Plaintiff's products used to sell Defendant's products are annexed to this Complaint as **Exhibit A**.
- 14. Defendant has used images of Plaintiff's hammocks in commercial advertising. Upon information and belief, Defendant has distributed, at minimum, electronic and print catalogs, as well as other sales and advertising material, containing images of Plaintiff's hammocks in commerce to multiple customers and potential customers in the United States.
- 15. Although Defendant uses images of Plaintiff's products to solicit orders for hammocks, Defendant ships its own competing hammock to fulfill the order instead of the Plaintiff's hammock depicted in images it used to solicit the order in the first place.
- 16. Upon information and belief, Defendant chose to use images of Plaintiff's products rather than images of its own products in a bad faith attempt to solicit orders from customers that had previously purchased and were familiar with Plaintiff's hammocks, at Plaintiff's expense and harm.
- 17. By using images of Plaintiff's products in Defendant's commercial advertising, Defendant is falsely stating or implying that the hammocks it is selling are Plaintiff's hammocks in Plaintiff's designs and packaging, when such is not the case.

- 18. Upon information and belief, Defendant's hammocks differ from Plaintiff's hammocks in terms of quality, design and packaging. Plaintiff has no ability to control the quality of Defendant's hammocks.
- 19. Upon information and belief, the quality, design, and packaging of the hammocks are material to customers' purchasing decisions.
- 20. Defendant has passed off its goods as those of Plaintiff's by using images of Plaintiff's products in commercial advertising and promotion to sell its own competitive hammocks and, upon information and belief, Defendant continues to do so.
- 21. Defendant has used and continues to use images of Plaintiff's products in commercial advertising and promotion to misrepresent the nature, characteristics and qualities of Defendant's products, which are not authorized or approved by Plaintiff and are not subject to its quality control.
- 22. Upon information and belief, Defendant has used images of Plaintiff's products to solicit orders for Defendant's competing hammocks from Plaintiff's customers and potential customers. Customers who believe they are buying Plaintiff's products in the packaging shown in Plaintiff's images are deceived into buying Defendant's products.
- 23. Defendant's bait and switch marketing of its products is harming the public because purchasers are likely to believe they are purchasing Plaintiff's products when, in fact, they are purchasing Defendant's products.

- 24. Buyers and prospective buyers viewing Defendant's advertisements, catalogs and sales materials featuring Plaintiff's products and perceiving a defect, lack of quality, or any impropriety are likely to mistakenly attribute them to Plaintiff.
- 25. Defendant's bait and switch marketing of its products is harming Plaintiff in that Plaintiff is losing sales to which it would otherwise be entitled because Defendant dupes customers seeking to purchase the products pictured in Defendant's catalog, which are Plaintiff's products, into purchasing Defendant's products instead. Further, Plaintiff stands to suffer irreparable harm to its reputation and good will if purchasers are dissatisfied with the quality of Defendant's products, over which Plaintiff has no control.
- 26. Defendant has used, in connection with its goods, photographs of Plaintiff's hammocks containing a combination of words, symbols and devices that identify Plaintiff's products, and so has made a false designation of origin and false or misleading description or representation of fact, which is likely to cause confusion, or to cause mistake, or to deceive as to the affiliation, connection, or association of Defendant with Plaintiff, or as to the origin, sponsorship, or approval of Defendant's goods, services, or commercial activities by Plaintiff.
- 27. The likelihood of confusion, mistake, and deception engendered by Defendant's conduct is causing irreparable harm to Plaintiff.
- 28. Further, by using photographs of Plaintiff's products in commercial advertising or promotion, Defendant has misrepresented the nature, characteristics,

qualities, and/or geographic origin of Defendant's products. goods, services, or commercial activities.

- 29. By causing such a likelihood of confusion, mistake, and deception, Defendant is inflicting irreparable harm to Plaintiff's goodwill.
  - 30. Upon information and belief, Defendant's conduct is ongoing.
- 31. Defendant's conduct is intentionally fraudulent, willful, and wanton, and has been undertaken with full knowledge of Plaintiff's rights.

## FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF FEDERAL UNFAIR COMPETITION (15 U.S.C. 1125(a)(1)(A))

- 32. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint, and incorporates them herein by reference.
- 33. Defendant has made false representations, false descriptions, and false designations of origin of its goods in violation of Section 43(a) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. 1125(a)(1)(A), by using images of Plaintiff's products to sell Defendant's competitive products, which has caused and, unless enjoined by this Court, will continue to cause a likelihood of confusion, deception, and mistake by creating the false and misleading impression that Defendant's goods are the same as Plaintiff's, or are affiliated, connected, or associated with Plaintiff, or have the sponsorship, endorsement, or approval of Plaintiff.

- 34. Defendant's conduct is intentional and willful and intended to reap the benefit of the goodwill of Plaintiff to the great and irreparable injury of Plaintiff, for which Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law.
- 35. Defendant's conduct has caused, and is likely to continue causing, substantial injury to the public and to Plaintiff, and Plaintiff is entitled to injunctive relief and to recover Defendant's profits, Plaintiff's damages including Plaintiff's lost profits, enhanced profits and damages, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §§ 1125(a), 1116, and 1117.

## SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF FEDERAL FALSE ADVERTISING (15 U.S.C. 1125(a)(1)(B))

- 36. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint, and incorporates them herein by reference.
- 37. By using photographs and images of Plaintiff's products in commercial advertising to sell its own products, Defendant has misrepresented and continues to misrepresent, in commercial advertising or promotion, the nature, characteristics and qualities of its goods in violation of Section 43(b) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)(1)(B).
- 38. Defendant's products are not authorized by Plaintiff and are not subject to its quality control. On information and belief, Defendant's products are materially different from Plaintiff's products, including, but not limited to, differences in their quality, design and packaging.

- 39. Defendant's conduct is intentional and willful and intended to reap the benefit of the goodwill of Plaintiff to the great and irreparable injury of Plaintiff, for which Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law.
- 40. Defendant's conduct has caused, and is likely to continue causing, substantial injury to the public and to Plaintiff, and Plaintiff is entitled to injunctive relief and to recover Defendant's profits, Plaintiff's damages including Plaintiff's lost profits, enhanced profits and damages, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §§ 1125(a), 1116, and 1117.

### THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF COMMON LAW UNFAIR COMPETITION

- 41. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint, and incorporates them herein by reference.
- 42. By using photographs and images of Plaintiff's products in bad faith to sell its own products, Defendant is making false designations of origin and false descriptions or representations that Defendant's hammocks originate from, or are offered, sponsored, authorized, licensed by or otherwise somehow connected with Plaintiff, when such is not the case. As a result of Defendant's conduct, the public is likely to believe that Defendant's goods have been manufactured and/or approved by Plaintiff or that Defendant's products share the same quality, design and packaging as Plaintiff's products.

- 43. Defendant's unauthorized use of photographs and images of Plaintiff's products falsely represents Defendant's products as emanating from or being authorized by Plaintiff, or as sharing the same quality, design and packaging of Plaintiff's products.
  - 44. Defendant's conduct constitutes common law unfair competition.
- 45. In addition, Defendant has been unjustly enriched by reason of its unfair competition in that Defendant has achieved sales and profits, and the opportunity to earn future sales and profits, as a direct and proximate result of its illegal conduct.
- 46. Unless enjoined by this Court, Defendant's unfair competition will continue to cause irreparable and inherently unquantifiable injury and harm to Plaintiff's business, reputation, and goodwill.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff respectfully demands judgment as follows:

- 1. That Defendant and its employees, agents, servants, officers, representatives, directors, attorneys, successors, affiliates, assigns, entities owned or controlled by Defendant, and all those in active concert or participation with Defendant, be permanently enjoined from:
- a) imitating, copying, or making unauthorized use of Plaintiff's products or images thereof in connection with the promotion, advertisement, display, sale, offering for sale, manufacture, production, circulation, or distribution of Defendant's products in a manner likely to create confusion as to the source, nature, qualities or characteristics of Defendant's products or to pass Defendant's products off as Plaintiff's products or otherwise to confuse or mislead the public;

- b) selling, offering for sale, advertising, promoting, or displaying

  Plaintiff's products in connection with the promotion, advertisement, display, sale,

  offering for sale, manufacture, production, circulation, or distribution of Defendant's

  products in a manner likely to create confusion as to the source, nature, qualities or

  characteristics of Defendant's products or to pass Defendant's products off as Plaintiff's

  products or otherwise to confuse or mislead the public;
- c) using any false designation of origin or false description, or performing any act which is likely to lead members of the trade or public to believe that any product manufactured, distributed or sold by Defendant is in any manner associated or connected with Plaintiff, or is sold, manufactured, licensed, sponsored, approved or authorized by Plaintiff;
- d) engaging in any other activity constituting unfair competition with Plaintiff; and
- e) instructing, assisting, aiding or abetting any other person or entity in engaging in or performing any of the activities referred to in subparagraphs (a) through (d) above.
- 2. Directing that Defendant account for and pay over to Plaintiff all profits realized by Defendant or lost by Plaintiff as a result of Defendant's unfair competition and false advertising.
- 3. Requiring Defendant to account for and pay over to Plaintiff three times the profits realized by Defendant from its unfair competition with Plaintiff.

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4. Awarding Plaintiff its damages including Plaintiff's lost profits and/or

Defendant's profits, trebled pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1117, arising out of Defendant's acts

of willful unfair competition.

Awarding Plaintiff punitive damages. 5.

6. Awarding to Plaintiff interest, including pre-judgment interest, on the

foregoing sums.

7. Awarding to Plaintiff its costs in this civil action, including reasonable

attorneys' fees and expenses, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1117(a).

8. Awarding Plaintiff exemplary and punitive damages to deter any future

willful unfair competition and false advertising as the Court finds appropriate.

9. Directing that Defendant file with the Court and serve upon Plaintiff's

counsel within thirty (30) days after entry of judgment a report in writing under oath

setting forth in detail the manner and form in which Defendant has complied with the

above.

10. Awarding Plaintiff such other and further relief as the Court may deem just

and proper.

DATED: November 29, 2016

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